Hydroelectric Project *inter-alia* alleging that the power generation at the proposed Neelum Jhelum Hydroelectric Project would be adversely affected. India has conveyed to Pakistan that in terms of the relevant provisions of the Indus Water Treaty, there is no existing hydroelectric use by Pakistan on the river Kisjenganga and that India's Kishenganga HE Project is fully in accordance with the Treaty.

New route for Mansarovar Yatra

2156. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering opening of a new route for Mansarovar Yatra *via* Himachal Pradesh passing through Shipkila pass on Tibet border;

(b) whether the Ministry has received a representation from Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh to this effect;

(c) if so, the action Government has taken, or plans to take on it; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (d) Government has received a representation from Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh for opening of a new route for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra passing through Shipki La Pass. During the visit of President Hu Jintao of China to India from November 20 to 23, 2006, the two sides agreed to explore the possibility of opening an additional route. We have proposed additional routes to the Chinese side for their consideration.

Participation in disarmament talks

2157. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister has recently assured Japan of Government's "constructive" participation in nuclear disarmament talks;

(b) if so, the details regarding it thereof;

(c) whether the country has sought Japan's co-operation in the civil nuclear sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (d) During his visit to Japan in 3rd-4th July, 2009 for the third round of India-Japan Strategic Dialogue, External Affairs Minister held discussions with his Japanese counterpart on various issues, including nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and civil nuclear cooperation. In his remarks, EAM said that India has consistently supported the objectives of disarmament and non-proliferation. The Japanese side said that Japan is aware of future opportunities in civil nuclear energy which could be considered after taking into account various factors.